

Claims:

1. A floating water surface cover module comprising a rim portion and a cover portion, means for giving buoyancy to the module such that in use the rim portion is substantially submerged in the water, said cover portion being configured to define an air space above the water, said buoyancy means including at least one air-filled buoyancy pocket associated with the rim and/or the cover portion, said rim and/or cover portion being configured to allow the module to be nested within and stacked with like modules for storage or transportation.
2. The module of claim 1, wherein the rim portion has an outwardly stepped formation which allows the cover portion and part of the rim portion of one module to nest within an overlying module to form a stack.
3. The module of claim 1 or 2, wherein the buoyancy means includes a plurality of air-filled pockets spaced around the rim portion, each pocket being formed to nest in a corresponding indentation in the cover portion and/or rim portion when the modules are stacked.
4. The module of any preceding claim, wherein the or each pocket is formed in the cover and rim portions as an open pocket which is closed by a lid fixed to the cover and rim portions after the pocket(s) are formed to define closed air-filled pocket(s).
5. The module of any preceding claim wherein the cover portion is dome-shaped.

6. The module of any preceding claim, wherein the cover portion has a vent opening to equalise the air pressure in the air space.
- 5 7. The module of any preceding claim wherein the cover portion, rim portion and a substantial part of the or each air-filled pocket is formed as a unitary plastic molding.
- 10 8. The module of any preceding claim, wherein the height ( $h_r$ ) of the rim and the depth ( $\chi$ ) of the freeboard portion satisfy the relationship:
- $$0.1 \leq \frac{\chi}{h_r} \leq 0.3 \quad (1)$$
- 15 9. The module of any preceding claim, wherein the diameter to height ratio of the rim ( $D:h_r$ ) and the diameter to height ratio of the domed cover ( $D:h_d$ ) are between 5:1 and 25:1.